

Message Text

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73

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 TRSE-00 SAJ-01

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4498

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USNATO 3257

DOD WASHDC UNN

USIA WASHDC

EUCOM UNN

UNCLAS PARIS 28288

VIENNA FOR MBFR/HOLZAPFEL AND USIS/ARNOLD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS/ PFOR, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH PRESS REACTION TO SCHLESINGER NEWS CONFERENCE

1. REFERENCES IN FRENCH PRESS TO SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S
OCTOBER 26 NEWS CONFERENCE HAVE BEEN SPARSE AND MOSTLY FACTUAL,
AND HAVE SPLIT EVENLY BETWEEN HIS STATEMENTS CONCERNING THE
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OCTOBER 25 MILITARY ALERT, AND COMMENTS ON EUROPEAN ATTITUDE

DURING MIDDLE EAST CRISIS.

2. WEEKEND EDITION OF FIGARO QUOTED SECRETARY THAT ONE OF FACTORS LEADING TO ALERT WAS "INDICATION THAT SIZEABLE PART OF SOVIET AIRBORNE FORCES HAD BEEN PLACED IN STATE OF ALERT". INVITED TO ELABORATE ON SIZE OF THESE FORCES, SAID FIGARO, SECRETARY SAID THEY TOTALED ABOUT 50,000 MEN. HE MENTIONED, SAID PAPER, THAT SOVIET AIRLIFT HAD SLOWED AT BEGINNING OF WEEK, BUT WHEN IT STOPPED ALTOGETHER MOMENTARILY, IT SEEMED POSSIBLE THAT PLANES INVOLVED WOULD BE USED FOR "OTHER PURPOSES", SUCH AS TROOP TRANSPORT. HE EMPHASIZED, PAPER CONCLUDED, THAT SOVIETS HAD NOT IN THE END SENT ANY ARMED FORCE INTO MIDDLE EAST.

3. LE MONDE ON WEEKEND CARRIED FRENCH NEWS AGENCY REPORT FROM WASHINGTON THAT SECRETARY SAID ATTITUDE OF BONN WOULD FORCE U.S. "TO REFLECT" CONCERNING ITS POLICY OF MAINTAINING HIGH LEVEL OF FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE. "HE LET IT BE UNDERSTOOD," STORY SAID, "THAT U.S. WOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT EVENTS OF LAST FEW WEEKS IN CONTINUING ITS MILITARY AID TO CERTAIN COUNTRIES OF NATO SUCH AS TURKEY AND GREECE". ON MONDAY, FIGARO IN REPORT FROM WASHINGTON AND LE MONDE IN FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL SAID DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN, PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY SCHLESINGER IN TURN COMPLAINED "BITTERLY" OF LACK OF SOLIDARITY OF ALLIES. LE MONDE EDITORIAL SAID SECRETARY IMPLIED "THAT HE WAS PREPARING PENALTIES AGAINST SUCH EXEMPLARY STUDENTS OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC CLASS AS FEDERAL GERMANY, TURKEY AND GREECE. AT PENTAGON, HE SAID, THE ARE 'REFLECTING' ABOUT THE LEVEL OF AMERICAN FORCES IN GERMANY AND THE AMOUNTS OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE. A WORD TO THE WISE IS SUFFICIENT." IRWIN

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